

REMARKS

Claims 2-15, 17-29, 31-40, and 42-49 are presently pending in the application. Claims 6, 21, 35, and 47 have been rewritten in independent form without narrowing the scope of these claims. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 22-26, 31-34, 36, and 42-46 have been amended solely to change the dependencies of these claims. Claims 11 and 37 have been amended. Claims 1, 16, 30, and 41 have been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, or other application.

The status of the claims in light of the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004 is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-13, 16-18, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37-41, and 43-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,504,644 to Sandstrom ("Sandstrom");

(B) Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 14, 15, 19-26, 32, 35, 36, 42, 46, and 47 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the corresponding base claims and any intervening claims; and

(C) Claims 27-29, 48, and 49 were indicated to be allowable.

A. Response to the Section 102 Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-13, 16-18, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37-41, and 43-45

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-13, 16-18, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37-41, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sandstrom. Claims 1, 16, 30, and 41 have been cancelled, therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot.

As discussed below, claims 6, 21, 35, and 47 have been written in independent form and are now allowable. Claims 2, 5, 9, and 10 have been amended to depend from allowable base claim 6, claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from allowable base claim 21, claims 31, 33, and 34 have been amended to depend from allowable base claim 35, and claims 43-45 have been amended to depend from

allowable base claim 47. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 31, 33, 34, and 43-45 are allowable as depending from one of the allowable base claims 6, 21, 35, and 47, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 2, 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 31, 33, 34, and 43-45 should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 11 and 37 have been amended to include several features generally similar to allowable claims 6, 21, 35, and 47. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 11 and 37 should be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 13, and 38-40 are allowable as depending from one of the allowable base claims 11 and 37, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 12, 13, and 38-40 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Objection to Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 14, 15, 19-26, 32, 35, 36, 42, 46, and 47

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 14, 15, 19-26, 32, 35, 36, 42, 46, and 47 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6, 21, 35, and 47 have been rewritten in the stated form. Accordingly, the objection to claims 6, 21, 35, and 47 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22-26, 32, 36, 42, and 46 are allowable as depending from one of the allowable base claims 6, 11, 21, 35, and 47, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Accordingly, the objection to claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22-26, 32, 36, 42, and 46 should be withdrawn.

C. Claims 27-29, 48, and 49 Are Allowed

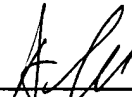
Claims 27-29, 48, and 49 were allowed in the present Office Action and have not been amended by this paper.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,

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